

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01837 271528Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EA-07 PRS-01 PA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02

L-03 IO-13 /073 W

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P 271449Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1681

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1837

FOR EUR/P, EUR/EE; USIA FOR IOP/M, IEU, IBS/PE:BULGARIAN SERVICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

LRAGS: PFOR, US, BU, KN, KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: SOKE 2110,-2

1. FIR REACTION TO PANMUNJOM KILLING OF TWO U.S. OFFICERS
CAME AUGUST 21 IN PARTY ORGAN "RABOTNICHESKO DELO" AND OTHER
DAILIES, CARRYING SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT, DATED WASHINGTON,
THAT PENTAGON HAD SENT TWO AIR FORCE SQUADRONS TO SOUTH
KOREA AFTER REPS OF DPRK HANDED A PROTEST NOTE TO THE
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION ON "...LATEST SOUTH KOREAN
PROVOCATION. THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER THE 41,000
AMERICAN TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA WERE PUT ON COMBAT ALERT."

2. FIRST SUBSTANTIAL ARTICLE APPEARED ON AUGUST 23 IN
"OTECHESTVEN FRONT", ORGAN OF FATHERLAND FRONT. UNSIGNED
AND FROM ITS "OWN INFORMATION" OUT OF TOKYO, REPORT ACCUSED
"AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA" OF "NEW
DANGEROUS PROVOCATION IN DMZ." HEADLINED "POLICY OF
THE GUN BOATS?", ARTICLE SAID: "PREMEDIATED INCIDENTS,
INSTIGATED BY U.S., AIM TO COMPLICATE SITUATION IN
KOREA AND TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR EXPANDING UNLAWFUL
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 01837 271528Z

PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES UNDER COVER

OF U.N." PIECE CONCLUDED THAT SENDING AIRCRAFT
CARRIER MIDWAY, AND ARMED INCIDENTS ALONG DMZ, SHOW
"...SOME CIRCLES IN U.S. THINK NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN
WORLD SINCE TIME OF GUN BOAT POLICY."

3. ON AUGUST 25, DEFENSE MINISTRY ORGAN "NARODNA
ARMIIYA" CALLED INCIDENT "...AGRESSIVE ACTION OF
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" AGAINST DPRK. HEADLINED "USA
CREATES TENSE ATMOSPHERE IN KOREA," ANJQSIGNED BY
IVAN UNDZHIEV, ARTICLE CHARGED WESTERN INFORMATION
AGENCIES AND PRESS TRIED TO PLACE JVSPONSIBILITY ON
DPRK AND "...SUPPRESSED FACTS WHICH REVEALED PRELIMINARY
PREPARATION FOR INCIDENT, DANGEROUS BUILDUP ON NEW
U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN THIS AREA." UNDZHIEV SAID
U.S. HAS MAINTAINED TENSION IN AREA FOR 20 YEARS AND
PENTAGON CONSIDERS SOUTH KOREA ONE OF ITS LAST STRONG-
HOLDS. PRESIDENT'S ORDER PUTTING 42,000 TROOPS ON COMBAT
ALERT IS PART OF "WAR OF NERVES" EXISTING THERE FOR
TWO DECADES, REPRESENTS "SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE AND
SECURITY" IN KOREA, AND DOES NOT HELP "PEACEFUL
UNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH." ARTICLE CHARGED
"NEW, PREMEDITATED TENSE ATMOSPHERE" IN KOREA "PROVES
DANGEROUS CHARACTER OF NEW U.S. PACIFIC OCEAN DOCTRINE
AND ROLE PENTAGON SETS FOR IT AS MILITARY SPRINGBOARD
FOR AGGRESSION IN SOUTH KOREA." DOCTRINE IS "DOOMED
TO FAILURE," UNDZHIEV CONCLUDED, BECAUSE DPRK
KNOWS HOW TO DEFEND ITSELF AND ITS "JUST CAUSE" IS
SUPPORTED BY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND "ENTIRE PEACE-
LOVING WORLD."

4. COMMENT: SO FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED ONLY PRESS
RESPONSE HAS BEEN THAT CITED ABOVE. NOTHING APPEARED
IN AUGUST 26 OR 27 PRESS AND AUGUST 26 EVENING TV NEWS
CARRIED SHORT ITEM ON U.S.-DPRK ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE
DISPUTE. NO GOVERNMENT OR OTHER VIEWS EXPRESSED TO
EMBASSY PERSONNEL. IVAN UNDZHIEV, IS NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY.
EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT RESPONSE TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT IS NOT
UNUSUAL BUT PREDICTABLE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF NORTH
KOREA AND PEG FOR ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA.

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PAGE 03 SOFIA 01837 271528Z

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Message Attributes

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